



# KELLEY CAWTHORNE

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Governor Rick Snyder  
State Representative Ken Horn  
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State Senator Mike Nofs  
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Dear Governor Snyder and Legislative Leaders:

Throughout my service as the Attorney General of Michigan, I witnessed great change in technology and in the way our residents and businesses put it to use. In particular, the telecommunications marketplace has changed dramatically but Michigan's regulatory environment has not kept pace with those changes.

Michigan residents' access to the latest technology and the fastest telecommunication modes is negatively impacted by an outdated Michigan Telecommunications Act. The act known by the acronym MTA, no longer reflects the current competitive marketplace. You now have outdated regulations of some suppliers with little regulation of other suppliers. Reform is long overdue. To help keep Michigan connected, engaged and growing, **I respectfully ask that you once again look into this matter and House Bill 4314, a bill which modernizes the MTA.**

This crucial reform levels the regulatory playing field in Michigan to reflect the rapidly changing telecommunications marketplace. More importantly, it **maintains major consumer protections** for Michigan workers and families.

The bill provides shut-off protection for customers on active duty in the military, the deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired. It provides requirements for deaf relay service to further empower the deaf community. The bill provides for a state-administered program that gives substantial discounts to low-income families and it prevents slamming and cramming while imposing strict penalties for violations. Finally, the legislation places oversight of telecommunications services within the Michigan Consumer Protection Act and the Office of the Attorney General.

Current outdated regulations stand in the way of greater investment here in Michigan while our neighboring states are taking action to become more competitive. In the interest of Michigan job creators, workers, families and seniors, **please give HB 4314 your undivided attention.**

Thank you for your time and further consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Kelley